(b) and (c) The estimated impact on the licence fee figurs of the financial year 2004-05 would be of the order of Rs. 400 crores annually at tariff and traffic as on 31.3.2005. However, it is felt that reduction in licence fee normally dues not make a negative impact for the contribution to the exchequer in terms of absolute values over a period of time due to increase in traffic.

(d) The change in licence fee and roll out obligations is applicable to existing as well as new entrants. The players have demanded compensation for difference in fee, cost of capital for capital expenditure for additional rollout, cost of capital for providing Bank Guarantees and difference in annual licence fee.

Depth of tower for receiving network

1687. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what should be the ideal depth of the tower for receiving the network without any disturbances;

(b) whether the required depth are being maintained; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The depth of tower depends upon soil conditions, height of tower and type of tower. The depth of tower have no correlation with the coverage without any disturbance.

Appointment of foreign nationals in telecom sector

1688. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ambiguity with regard to appointment of top foreign national executives in telecom sector companies after the raising of FDI ceiling;

(b) if so, the action taken to clear the ambiguity;